

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 /015 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7899

UNCLAS BRASILIA 8083

FOR CU/ARA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, BR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

REF: RIO DE JANEIRO 2215

1. POST WISHES ADVISE DEPARTMENT RE STATUS OF EXEMPTIONS FROM REQUIRE
D

12,000 CRUZEIROS DEPOSIT FOR ALL BRAZILIAN RESIDENTS TRAVELING ABROAD
(EXCEPT FOR TRAVEL TO ARGENTINA, PARAGUAY, URUGUAY AND CHILE).

2. ON SEPTEMBER 9, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (MEC), WHICH
GRANTS STUDENT EXEMPTIONS, ANNOUNCED THAT EXEMPTIONS WOULD BE
AUTOMATICALLY DENIED ANYONE TRAVELING TO STUDY AT JUNIOR HIGH OR HIGH
SCHOOL LEVEL. THIS DIRECTLY AFFECTS SUCH PROGRAMS OPERATING IN BRASIL
AS AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE, YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING, ROTARY CLUB
INTERNATIONAL AND OPEN DOOR STUDENT EXCHANGE.

3. ACCORDING TO MEC, OVERSEAS STUDY AT THIS LEVEL QUOTE ONLY SERVES
TO PREJUDICE THE STUDENT SINCE IT CAUSES THEM TO FALL BEHIND IN THEIR
STUDIES DUE TO DIFFICULTY OF ADAPTING THE COURSES THEY COMPLETE
IN OTHER COUNTRIES TO BRAZILIAN CURRICULUM UNQUOTE.

4. UNDERGRADUATES WILL BE EXEMPTED ONLY WHEN UNDERTAKING A
COURSE OF STUDY NOT OFFERED IN BRAZIL. SINCE MOST COURSES ARE
OFFERED ON UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL HERE, EXEMPTIONS WILL BE ALMOST
AUTOMATICALLY DENIED. ACCORDING TO MEC, QUOTE BRAZILIAN
UNIVERSITIES NOW OFFER EXCELLENT COURSES WHICH ARE AS GOOD AS
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FOREIGN ONES UNQUOTE.

5. ALSO TO DENIED EXEMPTIONS ARE ALL PARTICIPANTS IN SHORT COURSES SUCH AS ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSES AND AUDITORS AT MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND CONGRESSES.

6. MEC'S ANOUNCEMENT ALSO SAID QUOTE MAJORITY OF FOREIGN TRIPS ON PRETEXT OF STUDYING SERVE MERELY FOR TOURISM UNQUOTE AND THAT QUOTE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD ARE USING COURSES AS STATUS SYMBOL IN THEIR PROFESSIONAL CAREERS UNQUOTE. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF ADVANTAGES OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE OR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

7. WITH ONE EXCEPTION NO REPEAT NO IV GRANTEES HAVE EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTIES IN SECURING EXEMPTIONS. CASE OF IV GRANTEE SOARES, THE ONLY DENIAL, IS OUTLINED IN SEPTTEL AND CANNOT BE SEEN AS TREND. HOWEVER, ACTION OF MINISTER OF JUSTICE IN THIS CASE CANNOT BE IGNORED. IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE SERIOUS PROFESSIONAL NATURE OF EMBASSY INVITATIONS AND TO BETER DOCUMENT GRANTEES' EXEMPTIONS REQUESTS, SECOND LETTER OUTLINING MEETINGS WITH COLLEGUES AND INSTITUTIONAL VISITS WILL BE GIVEN GRANTEES. EMBASSY ALREADY SENDING COVERING LETTERS OF EXPLANATION TO GRANTEES' SUPERIORS WITH INVITATIONS WHERE REQUESTED.

8. RE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM, NO PROBLEM EXPECTED WITH GRADUATE STUDENT GRANTS SINCE COMMISSION ALREADY NAMING CANDIDATES ONLY IN FIELDS OR FOR DEGREE WHERE NO PROGRAM EXISTS IN BRAZIL, THEREBY FULFILLING MEC REQUIREMENT FOR EXEMPTIONS.

9. GOB RE-ASSESSING SITUATION RE DEPOSIT IN NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER. BRAZILIAN EXIT VISA VALID FOR SIX MONTHS AND ONLY AFTER EXPIRATION OF VISAS GIVEN BEFORE LAW WENT INTO EFFECT IN JUNE WILL FULL IMPACT OF DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT BE FELT ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION.

10. WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS.
CRIMMINS

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